

This year marks our 11th anniversary of Celebrate with the Stars, the Connecticut Bar Association's annual awards dinner that honors the distinguished achievements of legal professionals or members of the public who have positively impacted the legal profession. This night also celebrates the exceptional achievement of attorneys observing the 50th anniversary of their admission to practice in Connecticut. If you have ever wondered about the accomplishments of the notable legal professionals for which these awards are named, here is a look into the CBA archives for more.

The Legends behind

The Awards



The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award

The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo (1924-2012)

The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo of East Haven served in the US Army in India during WWII and later went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Yale University and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He practiced privately until 1977 and acted as public defender in New Haven County from 1966 to 1981, until he was appointed to the Superior Court.

He was active in the legal community, his membership including New Haven Junior Bar Association, University of Connecticut Law School Alumni Association and Law School Foundation, and lecturer in Law at the University of New Haven. He also served as the president of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund and helped pave the way for women to become fully fledged members of the Connecticut legal team.

Judge DeMayo served as president of the Connecticut Bar Association during the 1969-1970 bar year. He was a member of the Board of Governors, Pro Bono Committee, and Awards Committees as well as a CBA Sustaining Member. His commitment to pro bono was honored at the 2012 Annual Meeting when it was announced that the CBA Pro Bono Award was officially renamed The Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award. This honor was bestowed for his commitment to delivering legal services to the needy and a lifetime of distinguished service to the bar.

Judge DeMayo was also active in his own community, his involvement including the Foxon Recreation League, Past President of Family Services of New Haven, member of New Haven Philatelic Society, former New Haven Chairman and State Vice-President of the Kidney Foundation, past board member of the New Haven Community Council and Regional Mental Health Planning Council,

president of the East Haven Historical Society, East Haven Lions Club, the founder of East Haven Kid's Stamp Club, former parish trustee and council member of the Church of St. Vincent De Paul, and former member of the East Haven Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Awards were established in 2014.



Edward F. Hennessey Professionalism Award

Edward F. Hennessey (1934-2003)

Edward F. Hennessey was a trial attorney for more than 30 years. He graduated Dartmouth College and Boston College Law School. He served as the first law clerk to U.S. District Judge M. Joseph Blumenfeld and was a senior partner at Robinson+Cole. His practice took him to courts across the nation, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

Attorney Hennessey was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a board certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He was a sustaining member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and a member of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association. He has also served as chairman of the Connecticut Public Defenders Services Commissions. He was a former member of the Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield and also served as Mayor.

Attorney Hennessey is remembered for his professionalism, respect, and civility in and out of the courtroom. He was a champion of gender equality in the legal profession and mentored numerous female attorneys.



Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award

Henry J. Naruk (1928-1991)

Attorney Henry J. Naruk served as the CBA's 60th president from 1983 to 1984.

Under his leadership, the CBA opened up new offices at 101 Corporate Place in Rocky Hill (moving from Lewis Street in Hartford). Under President Naruk, the CBA conducted a search to replace Daniel Hovey, the executive director who left the CBA to become executive director at the Massachusetts Bar Association. Paul Carlin, the executive director of the Baltimore City Bar Association, was chosen to lead the CBA. In addition, under President Naruk's leadership, about 5,322 attorneys took part in CLE seminars in 1983. That year, the CBA Board of Governors also approved a section on Women and the Law.

President Naruk served as a superior court judge from 1969 to 1980 and was the first president of the Connecticut Judges Association. Prior to his appointment to the Bench, Attorney Naruk practiced law in Torrington and Hartford. He was also a prosecutor for Torrington City Court and a corporation counsel for the Town of Torrington. After his retirement from the Bench, he became a vice president and associate general counsel of the Travelers Insurance Company, Claim Department. Naruk was a graduate of Wesleyan University and Harvard Law School and admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1953. He was the co-author of *Supplement Connecticut Civil Procedures*, 2nd edition.

The Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award was established in 1994.



Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award

Charles J. Parker (1921-1980)

Charles J. Parker was a CBA vice president and president-elect nominee when he died (listed in 1979-1980 officers) on March 9, 1980. His obituary read that "The city of New Haven has lost one of its most dedicated public servants."

A partner with Tyler Cooper Grant Bowerman & Keefe (New Haven), Attorney Parker was a graduate of Middlebury and Yale Law School. He was admitted

Charles J. Parker

(continued from previous page)

to practice in New York in 1950 and in Connecticut in 1951. His volunteer work for the CBA and other legal associations included being chair of the Junior Bar Section (1954-1955), chair of the Probate Section (1964-1965), chair of the Estate Administration Committee (1970-1973), chair of the CBA Legal Aid Committee (1966-1969), chair of the ABA Public Interest Practice (1977-1979), and chair of the Legal Aid Committee (New Haven) (1955-1964). He served on the executive committee of the Yale Law School Alumni (1963-1964) and was director of National Legal Aid and Defender Association (1971-1980). Attorney Parker was the first recipient of the CBA's "Legal Service Award" (on October 10, 1977), which noted in the citation that, in addition to the accomplishments listed above, he served as chair of the New Haven Municipal Legal Aid Commission, president of the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, member of the Project Committee of the Connecticut Welfare Department, and a member of the ABA Special Committee on Public Interest Practice.

At a Memorial Service, then mayor of New Haven, Richard C. Lee, characterized Attorney Parker: "He was, in truth, a man for his time, and whether it was politics or the law, the improvement of our park system, or the rights of those who needed financial or legal assistance, he gave freely and completely of himself. Charlie was a blessed man, who led a blessed life, and he helped so many, many people."

Attorney William R. Murphy, a partner at Attorney Parker's law firm, eulogized him: "Charlie was a person of great compassion. Whether dealing with a poor child in need of public assistance or an elderly widow entering a nursing home, Charlie conveyed to each person whose life he touched the message that he cared—because he did care."

New Haven Mayor Biagio DiLieto stated, "He was a warm, considerate man, sensitive and attendant to the needs

and aspirations of his fellow citizens and creative in meeting those needs."

New Haven County Bar Association President Robert G. Oliver was quoted as saying, "Charles Parker was a moving force in bringing legal aid to our community...a gentleman in every sense of the word. He will be sorely missed."

Upon receiving the Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award in 1982, James W. Cooper (Tyler Cooper Grant Bowerman & Keefe) honored Attorney Parker by saying, "Charlie was a wonder...displaying courage, dignity, imagination, perseverance, and tenacity. He epitomized everything I admire."

The Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award was established in 1980.



Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award

Tapping Reeve (1744-1823)

Tapping Reeve was an American lawyer, educator, and jurist. He is recognized as founding an important and influential-law school in Litchfield. The Litchfield Law School was the second formal school offering training for the legal profession in the United States (after the William & Mary School of Law, which offered lectures on the law), but Reeve's law school was unique in that it offered a comprehensive legal curriculum. Therefore, the Litchfield Law School is considered the first formal school of law in the United States offering a vocational curriculum for future attorneys.

Judge Tapping Reeve was born in Brookhaven, Long Island, in October, 1744. He was the son of the Reverend Abner Reeve, a minister on Long Island and afterwards in Vermont. His father lived to the age of 104 and preached his last sermon when he was 102. Tapping Reeve graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1763 and, while working on a master's degree, taught school in a grammar school in Elizabeth, New Jersey (he was a tutor to Aaron and Sarah Burr, who were the orphan children of the Reverend Aaron Burr, Sr.,

the former president of the college). He also taught at the College of New Jersey from 1767 to 1770. In 1771, he married Sarah Burr and moved to Hartford, where he studied law with Judge Jesse Root. In 1772, he established his law practice in Litchfield. In 1774, Aaron Burr, Reeve's brother-in-law, left his ministerial studies with the Reverend Joseph Bellamy and moved to Litchfield to study law with Attorney Reeve. A year later, Burr left to join the Continental Army on the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

In 1781, Attorney Reeve worked with Theodore Sedgwick to represent Elizabeth Freeman (known as Bett), a slave in Sheffield, Massachusetts, in a legal bid for her freedom. Bett had heard a reading of the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution that contained the phrase "all men are born free and equal" and asked Sedgwick to take her case in a local court. The case (*Brom & Bett v. Ashley*) set a precedent on constitutional grounds. The precedent led to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts.

While practicing law, Attorney Reeve took students. At this time, his process followed the usual clerking or apprenticeship system of learning law. Sometimes, he would present talks on the principles of law. Due to the publicity from the *Bett* case, more students flocked to him as a teacher of law. In order to accommodate the increase in students, he constructed a small building on his property and developed a formal 14-month curriculum of legal studies. Thus, in 1784 he founded the law school in Litchfield.

The Litchfield Law School was never chartered by the state, remaining a proprietary effort, and never offered degrees as a credential. At the conclusion of their studies, many students took the Bar exam in Litchfield, even though they would be required to clerk in the office of a lawyer on returning to their homes and take the local Bar exam. Reeve provided letters of reference showing that the young men had "read law" at the school. He lectured on all aspects of legal practice including developing changes in the adaptation of British Common Law. His students followed the procedure of taking notes during the lectures, copying them care-

fully after checking citations, which were put in the margins. Many students bound their notes in leather volumes, which became reference works for them when they entered law practice.

Attorney Reeve was the only instructor at the school until 1798, when James Gould joined him. This school became the most prominent of its kind in the country. Students came from all over the United States. Between 1774 and 1833, 945 men attended the school according to available records. About 200 additional students are believed to have attended in the early years when no roll of students was kept. The Litchfield Law School's greatest influence was in shaping future legal education in this country. Attorney Reeve taught the law as based upon general principles and methods, and upon a national level, not as they pertained to specific states. The school established the study of law as graduate education, distinct from an undergraduate curriculum.

The influence of Litchfield Law School students on American politics is not well known, but should be. Two students went on to become vice president (Aaron Burr and John C. Calhoun), three students served on the Supreme Court of the United States, six served as U.S. Cabinet members, 97 students (more than 10 percent) later served in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 28 were U.S. Senators. At the state level, 15 alumni were elected governors of states and territories, and 13 served as state supreme court chief justices.

Attorney Reeve served as superior court judge from 1798 to 1814. In 1814, he was named Chief Justice and retired in 1815 to publish *The Law of Baron and Femme*, a legal analysis of domestic relations that went into four editions and was the primary treatise on family law for the nineteenth century. Finally, in 1820, Judge Reeve retired as a teacher and Gould continued to operate the law school until 1833, when competition from other law schools, such as Harvard and Yale, resulted in low admission to the Litchfield Law School.

Judge Reeve died in Litchfield on December 13, 1823.

Tapping Reeve's home, now known as Tapping Reeve House and Law School, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965. It is owned and operated by the Litchfield Historical Society.

The Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award was established in 2012.



John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award

John Eldred Shields (1912-1981)

Attorney John Eldred Shields served as CBA President from 1979-1980. During his 44-year career in law, he received national recognition as an innovative lawyer. He was the third-generation member of his family to practice law.

Attorney Shields was a graduate of the University of Virginia Law School and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1937. Before becoming CBA President, he was president of the New London County Bar Association (1974-1975) and member of countless association committees and boards. He was a member of the Norwich Board of Finance (1938-40) and Deputy Judge of Norwich City Court (1946-1947). Attorney Shields served as Norwich City Attorney and Prosecuting Attorney from 1947 to 1955. He was a Republican candidate and mayor of Norwich in 1946, Town Counsel from 1949 to 1951, and past president of the Norwich Chamber of Commerce (1966-1972). He also served as president, Norwich Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles (1940-1943); Director, Eastern Council, Navy League; member, Newcomen Society in North America; member, Sons of the American Revolution. At the time of his appointment as CBA President, he was senior partner of Shields & Block, Norwich. At the time of his death, he was a past president of the CBA, member of the ABA House of Delegates, member of the House of Delegates of the New England Bar Association, and member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Bar Foundation.

President Shields was a vigorous advocate of the presence of news cameras in Connecticut courthouses and appointed a Task Force on Cameras in the Courtroom. Under his leadership, the *Connecticut Lawyer* newsletter was expanded to six pages and published from September through June. During this time, the CBA began to publish a four-volume "Lawyer Directory" to be placed in public locations. While Shields was President, the CBA instituted an advertising campaign called "The Law's On Your Side...And so are we" designed to help the public learn more about the law and how it affects them. As President of the CBA, Shields invited the media to cover the deliberations of the Board of Governors and House of Delegates meetings with an invitation to the television networks that "most Association activities greatly affect the public interest and welfare, and we have nothing to hide." Representatives of three television networks viewed the November 1979 Board of Governors meeting. During his CBA presidency, Attorney Shields lobbied successively for increases in judges' compensation. Under his leadership, the CBA, and the New London Bar Association both won ABA Law Day awards. At this time, the CBA was able to persuade the ABA to recommend accreditation of the University of Bridgeport Law School. The CBA was also able to persuade the Connecticut legislature to forego an increase in the occupational tax and able to defeat a proposed sales tax on legal services. Following President Shields' leadership, the CBA held its first long-range planning retreat. Upon President Shields' death, he was recognized for his keen perceptions, his forceful presentations, and his indefatigable interest and efforts on behalf of the profession of law.

The John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award was created in 1981. ■

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